

# No Relief in Sight on Trash Inequities

If five businessmen occupy the same office and do nothing more than empty their ash trays into the trash barrel—and hire a rubbish contractor to take it away—they are soaked \$10 a month by the city for services they never use.

This was an aspect of an explosive issue wrestled by the City Council in a special session Monday night. There were no results.

Residents and business, billed monthly for trash removal by the city, are telling the city to go to blazes—to sue and be damned; they will not pay.

Mayor Isen described the inequities in the trash-collection program as the greatest strain on the city's public relations.

He cited the case of his old office, which he vacated six months ago. He still is being billed \$2 a month by the city for rubbish pickup, and he doesn't even smoke.

Private collectors obviously are doing a better job than the city. All refuse can be mixed in the same container. The city demands that combustible, noncombustible, and garbage be separated.

It was pointed out by Councilman George Bradford that large corporations, such as Union Carbide and General Petroleum, would be smart to say "OK, come

and get the trash—and we couldn't do it." These firms are among those that pay the \$2 fee without making any fuss, likely because they don't wish to appear stingy.

One knotty question is going to have to be decided by the council: whether the minimum fee is a tax on occupancy (home owners pay a school tax even if they send their children to private school) or a payment for service.

If it is adjudged a tax, residents and business firms will have to keep paying, even if they have no trash or have it collected by a private contractor.

If it is deemed a payment for services, the council is virtually in accord that adjustments will have to be made. Furthermore, if the price is a payment, the city will be in a dreadful mess if some large factory suddenly says

"come and get it." Torrance just does not have the facilities.

The council was told that 719 minimum-fee billings are mailed each month. Any number of these bills may be for nothing, since 15 private collectors are making a living here. Councilman Willys Blount wanted to know how many of these minimum-fee units are getting more than what they pay for.

Wade Peebles, Public Works director, already is conducting a tedious survey on the entire trash-removal picture. He offered to pull his men off that job and make the quickest possible survey of the minimum-fee addresses.

Councilman Robert Jahn favored waiting for this report before the council takes final action. His opinion is that if the city relinquishes the minimum charge,

it cannot afford the trash-removal program.

If the issue proves to be too hot a potato for the council it is possible the city may go out of the trash business and permit private firms to take over.

Meanwhile, Mayor Isen had a word for the system: "Lousy."

## Chamber Committee Set to Attack Trash System

Opposition to Torrance's rubbish procedure is expected to crystallize at a meeting of the industrial committee of the Chamber of Commerce next Thursday at 4 p.m.

At the group's first meeting, the Public Works director, Wade Peebles, explained the rubbish system, but chairman Don Lasell said most of the industrial firms are unhappy over the setup.

When asked if the city could handle one of Torrance's major firms, the answer was "No." "Then why do they charge us when a reputable private firm is doing an excellent job?" the firm's general manager asked.

Other complaints are that the city never can handle all types of industrial rubbish, there is an infringement on private enterprise, and in spite of the many problems and extra fees, the city is still losing a considerable amount on the program. Peebles said the charge was similar to taxes paid for the fire department. "You might not use them, but they are there if you need them," he added.

Chamber officials said many apartment owners object to sorting rubbish. The owners say private firms do a better job cheaper, and provide containers. Lasell added, that the industrial committees will not enter the apartment-house or individual-home fight at this time, but will protest apparent industrial inequities.



AT KONYA MEET—Bernice Florence, Jaycettes member (left), and Marilyn Jensen, assistant recreation director of Torrance, examine brochure on Turkey during meeting of City-to-City Committee. Plans were furthered for Konya Day celebration February, and arrangements made to send U.S. magazines to four libraries in Konya. Group also is seeking to obtain exchange student to attend El Camino College next year.

## School Library Gets 10,000th Reference Book

More than 10,000 books or reference materials are available at the Torrance High School library.

"Mathematics for the Millions," by Lucien Hogben, became the 10,000th book, according to Ruth Pearson, librarian.

Four hundred additional science books have been ordered.

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## No Relief Seen for Bus Riders

(Continued from Page 1)  
\$58,000 appeared likely to repeat this year.

Draie brought along a pamphlet on how Nashville, Tenn., made its system pay. Operation of the line was taken away from the City Council and put in the hands of businessmen, the city retaining ownership. He believed it might be a good idea here.

It was conceded that if better and more comfortable service were provided, the Torrance line might gain patrons. However, this would cost money, and nothing was resolved. It is a condition of requiring an egg to obtain a chicken, and vice versa.

An abrupt departure from the council's trend of conversation was injected when George Bradford offered to sell the system. There were no takers, on the council or off.

Meanwhile, riders must continue to be prepared; there is no oasis along the line.

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